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McKENZIE, FAYETTE AVERY
(1872-1957)
PAPERS
1894-1957

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of Fayette Avery McKenzie (1872-1957), B.S. Lehigh University; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania; Teacher – Shoshoni Indian Reservation, 1903-1905; Ohio State University, 1905-1914; Juniata College, 1897-1900, 1927-1941; and President of Fisk University, 1915-1925, were given to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Mrs. F.A. McKenzie of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, through the agency of her daughter, Mrs. W.H. Roberts, of Nashville, Tennessee in August of 1960.

The materials in this collection measure 2.83 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Fayette Avery McKenzie Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Fayette Avery McKenzie Papers, composed of approximately 2,000 items, contain correspondence, diaries, clippings, items dealing with Fisk University, the Shoshoni Indian Reservation, the Society of American Indians, Juniata College, and numerous writings of Dr. F.A. McKenzie on religious and sociological subjects. Dr. McKenzie wrote his doctoral dissertation on the Indians, and in the preparation for his work, he taught for two years at the Shoshoni Indian Reservation in Wyoming. The dissertation was published in 1908 and a copy of the study, which came with the papers, has been placed in the Tennessee State Library. Dr. McKenzie was instrumental in organizing the Society of American Indians and all of his life did much to further the progress of the Indian and the Negro. His years at Fisk University are marked by the recognition of Fisk as an accredited college and by the addition of a million dollars to its endowment. After leaving Fisk, Dr. McKenzie spent a year in France studying and writing, and after several months working on Indian projects in the United States, he returned in 1927 to Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. There, he taught sociology until he retired in 1941. The McKenzie papers are filled with accounts of his various civic activities. Dr. McKenzie was interested in adult education and was in charge of radio programs known as the Peoples University. Four chapters of an unpublished manuscript entitled "Leisure and Prosperity: A Philosophy of Civilization" and some reprints of published articles are among the papers.

The diaries in the collection were kept during periods spent abroad. Interesting accounts are given of trips with Professor Comte, a noted Frenchman, who was in charge of a welfare program in which children of Paris were carried into the country for the summer. Dr. McKenzie related some interesting experiences in France where he happened to be at the outbreak of World War I.

The addition to the Fayette Avery McKenzie Papers, approximately 100 items, is composed of correspondence, diary material, photographs, Indian material, Fisk University papers and letters, programs, invitations, and writings. Part of the diary material is an addition to the data about France in 1914. The other part is a journal kept during an annual religious camp meeting at Ganado, Arizona from March 28 to April 3, 1927. It contains the story of some Indian conversions and a description of a Navajo marriage. The chief correspondents on Indian affairs are Alida C. Bowler, S.M. Brosuis, Sherman Coolidge, Charles E. Dagenett, M. Friedman, George B. Griggs, Rosa B. LaFlesche, Thomas C. Moffett, Dr. Carlos Montezuma, Arthur C. Parker, and Robert H. Pratt. In 1926-1927, Dr. McKenzie was sent by the Institute for Government Research with an Indian staff to study problems on the various reservations. An itinerary of the survey together with the observations made are included for the following reservations: Concho, Cantonment Agency, Coeur d'Alene, Chippewas, Crow, Fort Apache, Ford Bidwell, Fort Hall, Fort Lapwai, Harasupai, Hoppa Valley, Hopi, Klamath, Leupp, Mission, Navajo, Pueblo, Pawnee, Pima, Pine Ridge, Ponca, Potawatomi, Rosebud, Seger, Shoshoni, Silitz, Sioux, Southern Pueblos, Tongue River, Unitah and Curey,

Umatilla, Western Navajos, Winnebago, Yakima, and Yankton. A number of photographs of Indians and the reservations are with the papers. A sketch of Haskell Institute, a boarding high school for Indians, is also with this addition.

The letters of Dr. Patrick Geddis contain a great deal of information about the College Des Ecosais at Montpellier, France where he was a professor of sociology and city planning. He wrote of the establishment of the American and Indian colleges and gave an account of the subjects taught including botany, archaeology, history, and philosophy.

Two letters worth attention were written by William Meyer, July 3 and August 25, 1927, from the American Presbyterian Mission in China. They contain some account of conditions in China at this time, travel, food supplies, health, government, resources, land, etc.

The addition to the McKenzie Papers contains more information regarding the rioting and demonstrations which occurred at Fisk University in early 1925 and resulted in the resignation of Dr. McKenzie. The trouble seems to have been caused by the agitation of a group under the leadership of Dr. William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (1868-1963). Du Bois denied the charge but wished he had been responsible for the riot, according to one writer. The letters dealing with Fisk and its problems were written by a number of Fisk students and teachers and others, chief among whom were Wallace A. Battle, M.G. Brumbaugh, Althea Brown Edmiston, R.C. Edmondson, Isaac Fisher, Paul Goode, R.J. Gross, Thomas Jesse Jones, Henry L. McDonald, Robert McMurdy, Mary E. (Helman) Petrilli, Dora Scribner, Addie Frances Sweet, Arch and Kate Trawick, Byron W. Valentine, George N. White, and James R. Withrow.

There are some interesting photographs of Fisk University, the Board of Trustees during Dr. McKenzie's administration, the Fisk Jubilee Singers, and the President's home.

The remainder of this addition is largely in the form of clippings of the writings of Dr. McKenzie containing a large number of "Occasional Papers" on a variety of subjects.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Fayette Avery McKenzie

- 1872 July 31 – Born in Montrose, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania; parents were Gertrude (Avery) and Edwin McKenzie, a merchant; grandparents were Benajah McKenzie and Charles Avery
- Educated in public schools of Montrose until his senior year of high school, which was completed at South Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where his family moved
- 1891-1895 Attended Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, from which he received the B.S. degree and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa
- 1894 Summer Session at University of Pennsylvania; studied with Franklin Giddings and Simon Patten
- 1895-1897 Tutored families of railroad officials of Lehigh Valley Railroad and Pennsylvania Railroad
- 1897-1900 Taught French, German, English, History, and Economics at Juniata College
- 1900-1903 Taught Modern Languages and Mathematics at Blight School for Boys while studying sociology, economics, and history at University of Pennsylvania
- 1900-1903 Taught at Wind River Indian Boarding School in Central Wyoming, the Shoshoni Indian Reservation, one hundred and sixty-five miles from a Railroad
- 1908 PhD from University of Pennsylvania; published his dissertation, *The American Indian in Relation to the White Population of the United States*, Columbus, Ohio
- 1905-1914 Professor of Economics and Sociology at Ohio State University; active in Civic Organizations of Columbus, Ohio

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| 1910 | Instrumental in the organization of the Society of American Indians which held its first meetings in Columbus, Ohio; worked with Roland B. Dixon on the Indian census |
| 1912-1915 | Chairman of Universities and Social Welfare section of the State Conference of Charities and Correction |
| 1914 | Spent time in France studying and traveling with Professor Comte, a most distinguished Frenchman who took children from Paris into the country for the summers; he was in France when World War I broke out |
| 1915 | April – Married Nettie Evalyn Tressel, daughter of a Lutheran minister, Rev. Emmanuel Greenwold, and Mary (Hawkins) Tressel of Washington, D.C. and Columbus, Ohio |
| 1915 | Made a study of Indian education from Kansas to Arizona |
| 1915-1925 | President of Fisk University; raised standards until Fisk became the first Negro institution to receive recognition as a standard college. He also raised a million dollar endowment fund and Fisk was put on the Carnegie Pension Plan. |
| 1916 | Awarded honorary degree, Doctor of Laws, Lehigh University |
| 1925-1926 | Spent a year in France |
| 1926-1927 | Studied Indian problems with the Indian Staff of the Institute for Government Research; spent time on various Indian Reservations and in Washington, D.C. |
| 1927-1941 | Taught Sociology at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania |
| 1927-1929 | Dean of Men at Juniata College |
| 1928 | Director of Extension Services; started the Altoona Center, which later became part of the Extension System of Pennsylvania State University |
| 1931 | Director of the Community Center Work in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania |
| 1935 | Helped get a public library for Huntingdon, Pennsylvania and was a member of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Association for Adult Education |

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| 1941 | Retired from Juniata College |
| 1941-1957 | Continued his work with numerous Civic Organizations |
| 1957 | September 1 – Died in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania |

Information obtained from numerous biographical sketches in the papers. Also, John Trotwood Moore, *Tennessee Volunteer State*, Vol., IV, 409-410

DESCRIPTION of SERIES

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| Box 1 | One box contains biographical data and information dealing with Dr. McKenzie's life – diaries, sketches, etc. |
| Box 2 | One box contains material concerning the years 1915-1925 while Dr. McKenzie was President of Fisk University |
| Boxes 3-4 | Two boxes contain information about work with the Indians and Indian Organizations |
| Boxes 5-7 | Three boxes contain the writings of Dr. Fayette Avery McKenzie |

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Biographical Data – Resolutions, etc.
2. Clippings – re: General Subjects
3. Correspondence – Geddis, Patrick, 1928-1929, re: France and College Des Ecossais
4. Correspondence – Aschberg-Foster
5. Correspondence – Gassert-Withrow, 1909-1924
6. Correspondence – McKenzie, outgoing, 1917-1952
7. Diary Material – France, June-August, 1914
8. Diary Material – France, “Children of Paris,” 1914
9. Diary Material – France, World War I, 1915
10. Diary Material – Trip Across Atlantic and to Stratford, July 1925
11. Diary Material – Navajo Indians – Annual Camp meeting at Ganado, Arizona
12. Juniata College, People’s University, etc.
13. Juniata College – Retirement Dinner – Tributes, 1941
14. Memorabilia – Lehigh University, 1894-1915
15. Memorandum – Centennial, Columbus, Ohio
16. Pennsylvania State College – Adult Education
17. Photographs – Brumbaugh, Geddis, Buttrick, Witmer, McKenzie, Rio de Janeiro
18. Printed Materials – World Alliance, United Nations, etc., 1927-1954
19. Schools in France

Box 2

1. Fisk University – Accomplishments of President Fayette A. McKenzie
2. Fisk University – Clippings
3. Fisk University – Correspondence - Mrs. McKenzie’s letter to her family describing inauguration of her husband, 1915
4. Fisk University – Correspondence – Incoming: Albertson-Bryan, 1915-1925
5. Fisk University – Correspondence – Incoming: Cowan-King, 1915-1925
6. Fisk University – Correspondence – Incoming: Loventhal-Petrilli, 1915-
7. Fisk University – Correspondence – Incoming: Roy-Withrow, 1915-1925
8. Fisk University – Correspondence – Outgoing: 1917-1925
9. Fisk University – Inaugural address of Fayette Avery McKenzie, 1915
10. Fisk University – Programs & Invitations
11. Fisk University – Photographs – Fisk Jubilee Singers, Board of Trust, President’s Mansion, etc.
12. Fisk University – President’s Report to the Board of Trustees, 1917-1922. Published in Fisk News for the following dates: January 1918, January 1919, January 1920, January 1921, January 1922
13. Fisk University – Request for aid from Carnegie Foundation, 1916

Box 3

1. Indians – Address – R.H. Pratt, “Our Indian Problem...”
2. Indians – Associations – Am. Indian Assn. – Cases and Indian Bureau
3. Indians – Associations – Indian Rights Association
4. Indians – Associations – Legal Aid to Indians
5. Indians – Associations – American Indian Association – List of Members
6. Indians – Associations – Mohawk Conference
7. Indians – Associations – Society of American Indians, Accounts
8. Indians – Associations – Society of American Indians, Constitution, etc.
9. Indians – Associations – Society of American Indians, Hospitality
10. Indians – Associations – Society of American Indians, Members, etc.
11. Indians – Correspondence – F.A. McKenzie, Outgoing, 1903-1946
12. Indians – Correspondence – Incoming: Abbot-Butterfield, 1911-1926
13. Indians – Correspondence – Incoming: Carey-Coolidge, 1912-1913
14. Indians – Correspondence – Incoming: Dagenett-Downes, 1911-1913
15. Indians – Correspondence – Incoming: Edwards-Johnson, 1911-1943
16. Indians – Correspondence – Incoming: Kellogg-Montezuma, 1911-1945
17. Indians – Correspondence – Incoming: Neff-Parker, 1911-1946
18. Indians – Correspondence – Incoming: Pearsall-Weyant, 1911-1943

Box 4

1. Indians – Census of Indians, 1930 – Proposed
2. Indians – Photographs and Memorabilia – Shoshoni (Wyoming)
3. Indians – Schools – Haskell Institute
4. Indians – Itinerary of Survey, Staff, and Questionnaire
5. Indians – Survey – Concho, Cantonment Agent
6. Indians – Survey – Coeur d’Alene, Chippewas, and Crow
7. Indians – Survey – Fort Apache, Fort Bidwell, Fort Hall
8. Indians – Survey – Fort Lapwai, Harasupai, Hoopa Valley
9. Indians – Survey – Hopi, Klamath, Leupp, Mission
10. Indians – Survey – Navajo (Northern), Pueblo (Northern), Pawnee
11. Indians – Survey – Pima Reservation
12. Indians – Survey – Pine Ridge Agency, Ponca Agency
13. Indians – Survey – Potawatomi Agency
14. Indians – Survey – Rosebud Agency, Seger Agency, Shoshone
15. Indians – Survey – Silitz Agency, Sioux (Sisseton Agency)
16. Indians – Survey – Southern Pueblos, Tongue River (Cheyenne)
17. Indians – Survey – Unitah and Ouray, Umatilla
18. Indians – Survey – Western Navajos, Winnebago (Omaha)
19. Indians – Survey – Yakima, Yankton
20. Indians – Re: Luepp’s Administration of the Bureau of Indians
21. Indians – Re: Indian Exposition

22. Indians – Writings: McKenzie, “The Indian and Citizenship”
23. Indians – Writings: McKenzie, “The Problem of Indian Administration”
24. Indians – Writings: McKenzie, “American Indian of Today and Tomorrow”

Box 5

1. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “The Church and the Home”
2. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “Communism, the Basis of Interracial Fraternity”
3. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “Educational Aspects of Motion Pictures”
4. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “The Ending of Depressions”
5. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “Halloween,” France, 1925
6. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “Leisure and Prosperity: A Philosophy of Civilization”
7. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “Leisure and Prosperity: A Philosophy of Civilization”
8. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “Leisure and Prosperity: A Philosophy of Civilization”
9. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “Progress Now or Later”
10. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “Success for Failure in Education”
11. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “The Teacher at his Best”
12. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “The Ending of Depressions”

Box 6

1. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – Miscellaneous fragments
2. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – Miscellaneous short articles
3. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – Miscellaneous short articles
4. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “A New source of National Wealth”
5. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – Newspaper articles
6. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – Occasional papers
7. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – Sketch: “Patrick Geddes”
8. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – Peoples University – Radio Program – Adult Education
9. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – Peoples University – Radio Program – Adult Education
10. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “Public Library”

Box 7

1. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – Religious subjects
2. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – Religious subjects
3. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – Sociological subjects
4. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – Sociological subjects
5. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – Sociological subjects – “Our Duty to the Social Center”

6. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – Sociological subjects – “Philosophy of Leisure”
7. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – Sociological subjects – “Schools as a Substitute for the Saloon”
8. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “Visit to Paracutin”
9. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “World Peace Without Cost”
10. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – World Subjects and World Problems
11. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – World Subjects and World Problems
12. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “How Can the People of the World Achieve Universal Disarmament”
13. Writings – Fayette A. McKenzie – “An Old Time Drummer Talks About the Grocery Business” by Arch Trawick